

DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

The Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901

Meeting Minutes

The Department of Education
The Cabinet Room

February 2, 2012
1:15 P.M.

Members Present: Michael Casson, Joanne Christian, Stephanie DeWitt, Karen Gordon, Cristy Greaves, Jill Lewandowski, Wendy Murray, Whitney Price, Shelley Rouser, Kathleen Thomas, and Jacqueline Wisnauskas.

Members Absent: Samtra Devard, Marilyn Dollard, Chris Kenton, and David Kohan.

Others Present: Charlie Michels; PSB Executive Director, Paula Fontello; Deputy Attorney General, James Lesko; DOE Director of Early Development and Learning Resources, Christopher Ruskowski; RTTT Acting Chief Officer TLEU, Donna Mitchell; RTTT Deputy Officer TLEU Professional Development, Michelle Kriss; Secretary to PSB, Donna Johnson; State Board of Education Executive Director, and Pamela Nichols; DSEA.

I. Opening

Call to Order: Ms. Thomas, Professional Standards Board Chair, called the meeting to Order at 1:25 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Ms. Lewandowski and seconded by Ms. Wisnauskas to approve the February 2, 2012 Agenda. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of January 5, 2012: A motion was made by Ms. Murray and seconded by Ms. Gordon to approve the PSB Minutes of January 5, 2012. The motion carried.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Michels said the PSB received a Thank You card from Ms. Amber Augustus, the 2012 Delaware Teacher of the Year, thanking the Board for the \$250 Honorarium. The card was circulated amongst the Board members.
- Mr. Michels said he attended the DOE's Delaware Education Support System (DESS) meeting in early January. One task of the Advisory Committee is to review Delaware public school student data and make decisions on those schools that are eligible or recommended for both the Federal and State Title I award designations.

- Mr. Michels indicated that Educational Testing Services (ETS) is working on a Multistate Standards Setting Study (MSSS) for Professional School Counselor at the end of February, 2012. At present, this is not a test required for either Delaware School Counselor certifications. There was interest at the Department level to participate in the study and Mr. Michels received affirmations from Department Leadership to send some Delaware educators. Mr. Michels worked with Mr. Dennis Rozumalski, the DDOE Education Associate for School Counselors, who provided several names to Mr. Michels. Mr. Michels subsequently e-mailed invitations to those educators. Educators interested in participating would register with ETS and then ETS would make decisions on attendees of the Study. After completion of the Study, Mr. Michels will receive a full Report from ETS that he will share with the Board. The Board could then consider the pros and cons as adding the test as a requirement for School Counselor Certifications.
- Mr. Michels said that less than a year ago, announcements were made by the Department at several educational venues that a Secondary Science Teacher with a Standard Certificate in one secondary science area could teach any other secondary science area without an Emergency Certificate in that additional area or areas. This announcement subsequently raised concerns with a variety of educators. During DOE's Office of Educator and Administrator Quality Development's Quarterly Meeting on January 11, 2012, Dr. Barton stated that after a considerable legal review, Secondary Science Teachers must hold the endorsement for each secondary science area they are teaching. Those educators currently out of compliance will need to have the district or charter school apply for the necessary Emergency Certificate(s). Some Department staff had expressed concerns with the integrated science language with regulation **1543 Secondary Science Teacher**. Mr. Michels has asked them to put their concerns in writing and then he will arrange a mutually convenient time to meet with them. He hopes to be able to include Science Coalition leadership as well. He said the Board may want to consider amending the language in the regulation after he reports back with various feedback.
- Mr. Michels had a productive conversation with Ms. Wendy Strauss, the Director of the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC), and Ms. Della Thomas, the Director for Statewide Programs for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind. Mr. Michels walked them through the regulation review and approval process, and the difference between Delaware educator licensure and certification. Mr. Michels indicated that the Board typically reviews regulations on a 5 year cycle, but sooner if it is warranted. It has been almost 5 years since the last review of regulation **1574 Teacher of Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Michels amended the standing regulation by bringing it up to current formatting standards, but did not change any criteria. His draft was then sent to Ms. Strauss and Ms. Thomas for their review. To date he has not received any feedback.
- Mr. Michels said he had a conversation with Representative Schooley, who is the House of Representatives sponsor of House Bill (HB)107. During the meeting he informed her of comments and concerns shared by GACEC. Additional concerns

were also discussed regarding the impact HB107 might have on School Nurse applicants. Mr. Michels will arrange for a meeting with Rep. Schooley, members of the DSEA and himself while the General Assembly is out of Session in February.

- Mr. Michels spoke of a conversation he had with Dr. Wayne Barton's Teacher and Administrator Quality Development work group, including the contractor who facilitates DEEDS. Mr. Michels discussed the recent changes made to **1505 Standard Certificate** and **1506 Emergency Certificate**, effective February 11, 2012. Mr. Michels gave them hard copies of the regulations with highlighted changes that must be now incorporated into the staff's processes and incorporated into the Delaware Educator Data System (DEEDS). Mr. Michels said he will be checking on progress made.
- Mr. Michels referred the PSB members to the handout in their folders regarding Charter Schools. The document showed new charter school applications and modifications requested for the 2012-2013 school year.
- Mr. Michels said that there is current pending legislation regarding language in Delaware Code Title 14 Chapter 12 §1260 which speaks to Teach for America (TFA) sunset dates. There is a proposed amendment which would move the sunset date from April 20, 2012 to April 20, 2015. An accompanying amendment speaks to requiring the Department to provide a report to the General Assembly regarding the efficacy of the TFA program.
- Mr. Michels said a House Bill has been introduced which would raise the Delaware minimum school dropout age from 16 to 18, with a few exceptions. The proposed language would allow for a 2 year phase in.

IV. **DOE Report**

Ms. Thomas introduced Dr. James Lesko, Director of the DOE's Early Development and Learning Resources work group. Dr. Lesko passed handouts to the PSB, and gave an overview of the Early Development and Learning Resources work group. He said his work group was established about one and a half years ago by the Secretary of Education. His work group provides leadership, guidance and coordination toward the development of a comprehensive early childhood system for children ages birth through the early primary years. He also described his work group's mission, vision and guiding principles as well as the various programs and initiatives they manage. Dr. Lesko discussed the Delaware Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant in which Delaware was awarded \$49,878,774 over a period of 4 years to meet proposed initiatives. He said this will be a collaborative effort across 3 State Departments: Education, Health and Social Services, and Services for Children Youth and Their Families. The Board followed up with a few questions that were deftly answered by Dr. Lesko. Mr. Michels said he would forward Dr. Lesko's contact information to the PSB.

V. **Action Items**

A. **American Sign Language Certification Programs**

Mr. Michels noted that the PSB had a discussion during the January 5th meeting in which the Board reviewed potential programs that might be approved for an educator who is interested in becoming certified as a World Language Teacher: American Sign Language (ASL). Mr. Michels presented the 2 certification programs for American Sign Language that have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate DOE staff; Dr. Gregory Fulkerson, Education Associate for World Languages and International Education and Dr. Marion Wolak, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development. The two programs presented were: 1.) Current and valid certification by the American Sign Language Teacher Association at either the Qualified Level Certification or the Professional Level Certification, 2.) An Interpreter Education Program that has been approved by the Accreditation Board for Interpreter Education Programs of the Commission on Collegiate Interpreter Education. Mr. Michels said the intent of this initiative was to be proactive in approving a few ASL certification programs so as to provide potential World Language Teacher: American Sign Language applicants the ability to become certified in a timely fashion. Approving these two programs does not however, preclude the PSB and the State Board of Education from approving others in the future. After some discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Greaves and seconded by Dr. Rouser to approve the two American Sign Language Certification Programs as presented. The motion carried. Mr. Michels noted this will now go before the State Board of Education for approval.

VI. Discussion

A. 1598 Delaware Professional Development Standards

Mr. Michels said this regulation was approved for Publication by the PSB on January 5th and the State Board of Education on January 19th. It was published in the DE Register of Regulations today, February 1, 2012. Mr. Michels noted he had not received any written comments to date. It was noted that Learning Forward had several documents on their website that would help in the review and critique of potential professional development. The PSB shared no further concerns.

B. 1597 Delaware Professional Teaching Standards

Mr. Michels said he has shared numerous drafts of this regulation with the PSB over the past few months, some of which were significant in length. He referred the PSB to the handouts in their folders that showed the latest modified and ‘clean’ version of what this regulation could look like upon approval. In this draft, Mr. Michels minimized the overall content length by listing the ten (10) one sentence standards and directly referencing the entire Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) document as the basis for the Delaware Professional Teaching Standards. Mr. Michels had shared a draft of 1597 with the DOE Associate Secretary group who upon consideration, approved of the adoption of the InTASC standards. After discussion, the Board’s consensus was to move forward with the latest draft for Publication in March.

C. 1570 Early Childhood Special Education Teacher

Mr. Michels shared with the Board that this regulation at a minimum needs to be reformatted by referencing Regulation *1505 Standard Certificate* and eliminating unnecessary language. Mr. Michels would like the PSB to discuss and share their thoughts with their constituent groups on the possible approval of the connected Praxis II test and how that might impact the current course count. Mr. Michels had asked connected DOE staff and those Delaware educators that had participated in the ETS Multistate Standard Setting Study their opinions on whether or not to require the Praxis II test and if so, should the current course count should be maintained. Their unanimous opinion was that solely taking the test was not sufficient to ensure these individuals would have the skills and knowledge to work with these children. It was requested the maintenance of the course count in the regulation and that the Board consider approving the Praxis II test. Mr. Michels indicated that currently a Praxis II has not been approved for this certification area. Based on the information presented to date, the PSB agreed the coursework needs to be completed to provide necessary content and knowledge, and that passing the test alone is not enough. Mr. Michels will continue to work on this regulation with experts in the field and the share their comments at a future PSB meeting.

D. 1573 Teacher of Students with Autism or Severe Disabilities

At the onset of the discussion, Mr. Michels referred the PSB to handouts in their folders that included Ms. Devard's written comments, a draft version of Regulation 1573, and a letter he received from Autism Delaware dated May 27, 2011. Mr. Michels reiterated he and the PSB have been pursuing potential changes in this regulation for over a year and a half. He noted that over time he has received feedback from Ms. Theda Ellis; Executive Director of Autism Delaware, Dr. Vincent Winterling; Statewide Director Delaware Autism Program, The Governors' Council for Exceptional Citizens, the State Council for Persons with Disabilities, the DOE's Dr. Linda Rogers, Ms. Martha Toomey and Ms. Mary Ann Mieczkowski, Dr. Gary Allison; University of Delaware College of Education Associate Professor, Dr. William Lane, Wilmington University Special Education Chair, in addition to members of the PSB. The feedback to potential amends over the life of the amendment process he has received has been considerably disparate. To add to the complexity of current concerns, the American Psychiatric Association has proposed new diagnostic criteria for the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) for autism.

After further discussion with the Board, Mr. Michels encouraged the Board to consider the original intent of amending the regulation which was just to open up additional opportunities for educators to attain the necessary skills and knowledge required for certification, and to work with this special and challenging student population. Reflecting on the evening's discussion, previous discussions and the range of expert's comments, the Board's consensus was to amend and approve the regulation based on the original intent, and then continue to study trends and official published guidelines in the future. Mr. Michels noted, as he has in the past, that the PSB regulations are indeed dynamic documents which may be amended when needed.

VII. Presentation

None.

VIII. PSB Standing Committees

A. Licensure and Certification Criteria

The Committee had not met.

B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation

The Committee had not met.

IX. Other

Dr. Rouser inquired about the current status of applications for alternative Mentoring Programs and who had been informed of the possibilities. Mr. Michels indicated that to date he had received no applications, and that upon approval of amended regulation **1503 Educator Mentoring** in July of 2010, he placed the announcement in the Weekly School Chief/ Head of Charter Memo, alerted all district and HR personnel, spoke of the changes at a Quarterly meeting of the DOE Office of Teacher and Administrator Quality Development and placed all the documents on the PSB webpage. It was suggested that Mr. Michels contact district and charter school Mentoring Site Coordinators, which he said he would do.

X. Public Comment

None.

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Rouser and seconded by Ms. Lewandowski to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.